

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077994
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 PRS-01 USIA-06
DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /034 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:KNBROWN:LCB
APPROVED BY EUR:JGLOWENSTEIN
EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
EUR/P: (INFO)

-----081220Z 117718 /12

R 071954Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077994

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT: BOURNE VISA

REF: PRAGUE 769, VIENNA 2414

1. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT DCM OR POLCOUNS SHOULD MAKE STRONG PRESENTATION TO SIXTH DEPARTMENT ON APPARENT NEW ANGLE TO POLICY TOWARDS JOURNALISTS' VISAS. WE QUESTION WHETHER DELAY IS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF SAWYER'S PRESENCE. WE REALIZE THAT WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS KNOWN TO MFA ON NUMBER OF RECENT OCCASIONS, BUT THE APPROACH OUTLINED BY PRESS SPOKESMAN SOBR SEEMS TO US SUFFICIENTLY EGREGIOUS TO WARRANT A NEW DEMARCHE, POINTING OUT INCONSISTENCY WITH CSCE OF CONTROLLING SUBJECTS FOR JOURNALISTIC COVERAGE.

2. WE BELIEVE BEST COUNTER TO CONTINUED CZECHOSLOVAK UNREASONABLE POLICY ON JOURNALISTS VISAS IS PUBLICITY,
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AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR PLANS EDITORIAL ON REPREHENSIBLE CZECHOSLOVAK TREATMENT OF JOURNALISTS. WE PLAN TO USE SUBSTANCE OF PRAGUE 769 IN ANSWER TO ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS POSED US BY MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT CURRENT TREATMENT OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS

IN CZECHSLOVAKIA.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, POLICIES, VISAS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE077994
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KNBROWN:LCB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770123-0177
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770476/aaaconc.tel
Line Count: 63
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2f1849a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PRAGUE 769, 77 VIENNA 2414
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2864172
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOURNE VISA
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, CZ, US
To: PRAGUE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2f1849a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009